Commonwealth of Virginia
Council on Technology Services

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COTS Dispatch
The Newsletter of the Council on Technology

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Welcome to the first issue of the COTS Dispatch, an e-newsletter covering COTS meetings, committee activities and other news. Our goal is two-way communications-to keep you informed and to invite your feedback-so please send us your comments and suggestions.

Governor Gilmore created COTS in August 1998 to develop an information technology blueprint for Virginia State government. As Secretary of Technology, I chair the Council, a stakeholder-driven organization with 23 members from across the government spectrum, including representatives from agencies, institutions of higher education and local governments. Many members are CIOs; others have finance and accounting backgrounds. The Council transcends multiple barriers: CIOs and CFOs from many different areas of government are sitting together around the same table, bringing impressive knowledge, experience and different perspectives to the tasks at hand.

The Council meets monthly in Richmond and quarterly around the Commonwealth. COTS workgroups, comprised of COTS members and other interested parties, meet monthly to look at specific issues. All COTS and Workgroup meetings are open to the public. Please visit the COTS web site at http://www. cots.state.va.us for more information.

I hope you find this newsletter useful, and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Don Upson
Secretary of Technology

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DIGITAL SIGNATURES REPORT

At its Oct. 27, 1999 meeting, the Council's Privacy, Security and Access (PSA) Workgroup presented a report on digital signatures. This presentation was the culmination of many months of effort by the Workgroup, chaired by Cheryl Clark, the CIO at DMV. In preparing the report, Ms. Clark solicited input from nearly 30 government and industry sources. The Commonwealth's goal is to utilize digital signatures to enhance security and promote efficiency for a full-range of E-business transactions throughout state government.

The cornerstone of the report's seven-point plan is a recommendation that the Commonwealth launch a first-wave deployment of digital signatures in a limited client population in early 2000. Interested parties were asked to notify Secretary Upson by November 30 of their interest in being a pilot organization. These pilot deployments will focus on government-to-government, government-to-business partner, and government-to-general public transactions.

- Download the report, [Toward the Use of Digital Signatures in the Commonwealth of Virginia](#) (142 KB, PDF), http://www.cots.state.va.us/pubs/digsig.pdf , presented at the October COTS meeting
- See [an HTML version of the Powerpoint Presentation](#)

COTS IX WEBSITE

Also at the October 27 meeting, the Council's Gainsharing Partnerships Workgroup, in collaboration with [Lgov.org](#) , presented a website created to serve as a forum for state and local IT officials to exchange information of mutual interest (Contracts, RFPs, Best Practices, Policies and Procedures, Studies, Reports, etc.).

Visit [the COTS Information Exchange web site](#) and sign up to take advantage of this great resource.

ENTERPRISE ARCHITECTURE (EA) INITIATIVE

The COTS Organizational Workgroup is assisting the Council in developing an enterprise architecture to enable state government to rapidly implement high-value, business-driven IT solutions. The first step in constructing the EA is to identify the business and technology "drivers" of state government, and that's what the group plans to tackle during a January 10, 2000 session. Check [the COTS website calendar](#) for time and location. Visit [the Enterprise Architecture web site](#).

EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO) 51 WORKSHOP

Governor Gilmore issued EO 51 in July of this year to implement recommendations of the Governor's Commission on Information Technology. A principal component is the requirement for all agencies and institutions to develop a plan, by June 1, 2000, for delivering all current and expanded services through the Internet. To assist organizations with writing these plans, we will hold a workshop in early to mid-February (details to come). A group of COTS members and other volunteers will be working on the program for this session to ensure that it meets your needs.

- Read Executive Order 51

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